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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
Pre-sessional Working Group
3-7 December 2001

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the second periodic report of France concerning the rights referred to in articles 1-15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1990/6/Add.27)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. General legal framework within which human rights are protected

1. Please indicate whether, in addition to any action taken by the State party or at the initiative of the National Advisory Commission on Human Rights itself, an individual can submit a complaint to the Commission directly.

2. The Committee would like to have information on decisions taken by the National Ombudsman and by the ombudsmen of the various departments since the preparation of this report.

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B. Information and publicity concerning the rights set forth in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in other international instruments

3. Please indicate whether NGOs have been consulted during the drafting of this report.

II. ISSUES RELATING TO THE GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT (arts. 1-5)

Article 1 - Self-determination

4. Please indicate the concrete measures taken to apply the proposed reforms for the autonomy of French Polynesia, in particular with respect to guaranteeing the right concerning employment and real property.

5. Please indicate the position of the State party with regard to the bill on the autonomy of Corsica.

Article 2 - Non-discrimination

6. Please provide information on the situation of aliens who are not citizens of the European Union and of refugees and asylum-seekers with regard to their enjoyment of the rights recognized by the Covenant, and indicate whether there are any restrictions imposed by the State party that affect them.

Article 3 - Equal rights of men and women

7. Please provide information on the policy concerning the equal enjoyment of men and women of economic, social and cultural rights.

III. ISSUES RELATING TO SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT (arts. 6-15)

Article 6 - Right to work

8. Please provide information on the measures undertaken by the State party to address high levels of unemployment among the least skilled, a high level of long-term unemployment, difficulties in integrating young people in the labour market, and increase in forms of precarious employment such as temporary employment and involuntary part-time employment.

9. Please indicate what steps are being undertaken to reduce unemployment among women.

10. Please provide information on the progress in implementing the youth employment scheme since 1997, as referred to in paragraphs 142-148 of the report.

11. Please provide information on the present situation of women employed in the armed forces.

Article 7 - Right to just and favourable conditions of work

12. Please provide information on the institutional composition of the bodies responsible for overseeing compliance with the occupational health and safety regulations, namely the Higher Council on Occupational Risk Prevention and the committees on health, safety and working conditions, referred to in paragraphs 217-218 of the report.

13. Please describe the procedures of judicial control by industrial tribunals and criminal courts to examine the enforcement of health and safety regulations (paragraph 229 of the report).

Article 8 - Trade union rights

14. Please provide more detailed information on how civil servants exercise their trade union rights, including the right to strike.

Article 9 - Right to social security, including social insurance

15. Please indicate the criteria according to which persons living with HIV/AIDS can obtain 100 per cent health coverage, in the context of Decree No. 93/676, referred to in paragraph 299 (b) of the report.

Article 10 - Protection of the family, mothers and children

16. Please provide more detailed information on the so-called "educational measures" necessary for children and the family, which are ordered by youth courts in cases when "the health, safety and character" of a child are at risk (paragraphs 416-420 of the report).

17. Please provide information on the extent of domestic violence against women, and on the measures taken by the State party to address the problem.

Article 11 - Right to an adequate standard of living

18. Please indicate what measures are being taken to improve the living standards of poor households, and in particular large and single-parent families (paragraphs 460-461 of the report).

19. Please provide more detailed information on the requirements for entitlement to RMI (income support), referred to in paragraph 464 of the report.

20. Please indicate what measures have been taken with a view to reducing poverty and extreme poverty, following the reports of France's Economic and Social Council and the National Advisory Commission on Human Rights (paragraphs 462-463 of the report).

21. Please provide information on the extent of homelessness. Please also provide information on measures being taken with regard to temporary or makeshift dwellings (paragraph 512 of the report).

22. Please indicate what specific measures are being taken as part of the plan instituted by Act No. 90-449 of 31 May 1990 to provide housing for the most disadvantaged groups of society (paragraph 534 of the report).

23. Please indicate what specific measures are being taken pursuant to Act No. 94-624 of 21 July 1994, which makes it mandatory for each department to draw up an emergency shelter plan.

24. Please provide more detailed information on the legislation to encourage private owners to rent to people with limited resources, as referred to in paragraph 521 of the report.

25. Please indicate the effects of framework law No. 98-657 of 29 July 1998 addressing the problem of social exclusion (paragraph 522 of the report).

Article 12 - Right to health

26. Please provide more detailed information on the measures being taken to reduce inequalities confronting the health sector, as referred to in paragraph 593 (d) of the report.

Articles 13 and 14 - Right to education

27. Please provide information on the effects of the measures taken to reduce the rate of student drop-out or failure at the university level, in light of the objectives referred to in paragraph 637 of the report. Please also provide information on the results of the policies implemented by the universities (paragraph 638 of the report).

Article 15 - Right to take part in cultural life and to benefit from scientific progress

28. Although the State party, in its third periodic report to the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/76/Add.7, para. 394), has declared that "France is a country in which there are no [ethnic, religious or linguistic] minorities", it is obvious that France is characterized by great ethnic and cultural richness. While the Committee recognizes the efforts made by the State party to protect its regional languages and cultures, it would like to have information on the measures taken by the State party to protect the languages and cultures of existing minority groups.

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